



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Thursday December 12, 2005 -- 05-056  
**District:** District 2 - Redding  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Caltrans and CHP Tire Chains are the Way to Go

**REDDING** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) strongly recommend motorists carry tire chains while traveling in snow prone areas. While the California vehicle code (CVC 27459) does not require motorists to always have chains in their possession, if you don't have chains in your possession and a chain control is in effect, Caltrans or CHP have the authority to prevent you from proceeding.

Winter weather in Northern California is unpredictable and changes rapidly. "If conditions warrant traction devices, snow tires or studs may not be enough. There are certain situations where drivers of four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive with snow tires on all four wheels, will not be allowed to proceed without chains in their possession," said Caltrans Safety Officer Cliff Peterson.

The following chart shows required chain control levels:

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAIN CONTROL REQUIREMENT LEVELS

- W: No Restrictions – Watch for snow on pavement.
- R-1M: Chains are required on single-axle vehicles with trailers. (Commonly referred to as R1 Modified)
- R-1: Chains are required on all commercial vehicles (trucks or buses). All other vehicles (cars, pickups, vans, etc.) must have either snow tread tires or chains on the drive axle.
- R-2: Chains are required on all vehicles except four-wheel drives with snow tread tires on all four wheels, provided tire chains for at least one set of drive wheels are carried in the vehicle.
- R-3: Chains required – ALL VEHICLES – no exceptions.

R-1 and R-2 are the most common chain controls. The highway will often be closed before an R-3 control is imposed.

Although four-wheel and all-wheel drives have traction advantages when propelling the vehicle, they do nothing for stopping it. Tire chains add traction for both stopping and going. Stranded vehicles are a hazard to other drivers, cause longer delays and interfere with snow removal efforts. "So, for the cost of that motel room you'll be staying in when you get stuck in the snow," said Peterson. "Pick-up a set of chains, learn how to use them and keep them in the car."

For information on road conditions and chain controls go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/>

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**NOTE:** An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news\\_releases.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm)

